

**Welcoming Statement**  
**Senator Larry Craig**  
**Forum on Disease Management**  
**U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging**  
**November 4, 2003**

Good morning, and welcome to today's Senate Special Committee on Aging forum on Disease Management in Traditional Medicare.

Disease management for people with chronic illness is a critically important emerging innovation in America's health care system.

Last fall this Committee held a hearing on the challenges of moving disease management into Medicare for those with chronic conditions. This forum is a follow-up to last year's hearing.

Today's panelists will focus on the technical details of evaluating disease management demonstrations and how good a fit disease management "*may or may not*" be with Medicare's fee-for-service program.

Our panelists for today are:

Stuart Guterman, Director for the Office of Research, Development, and Information at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services;

Mark Miller, Executive Director of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission; and,

Jeff Lemieux of the Centrist Organization and the Progressive Policy Institute.

The Senate and House Medicare bills both include provisions for disease management and we hope this forum will aid the conferees in their deliberations.

This forum is a great opportunity for us to listen and learn while building a record for policy considerations. We hope to learn about the challenges faced in moving disease management into the Medicare population.

With that, I will now turn the proceedings over to the moderator, Bruce Steinwald. Mr. Steinwald is the Director for Economic and Payment Issues in the Health division at the U.S. General Accounting Office.

Bruce, thank you and please proceed.